

In the Specification:

Please insert the following section at page 1 before the "Background of the Invention" section.

Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/277,457, filed March 26, 1999 (now U.S. Patent Number 6,355,425), the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the specification at page 17, line 24 as follows:

cleavage assay, capillary hybridization, or ~~TaqMan~~ TAQMANTM assay (fluorogenic 5' nuclease assay)